Workers Cooperatives

3582. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1865 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th August, 1994 and state:

(a) whether his Ministry has worked out broad outlines for workers' cooperatives where Public Sector Units are facing closures/illness;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) why workers of chronically sick Public Sector Undertakings are not coming forward to form workers' cooperatives when their counterparts in private and cooperative societies have successfully launched workers co-operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Government have not worked out any general scheme for workers' cooperatives to run sick public sector units (PSUs), as the scheme would differ from case to case.

(c) Formation of cooperatives by workers of sick Public Sector Undertakings is a matter of workers' own voluntary choice. The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) which examines all cases of Sick Public Sector Undertakings registered with them give opportunity to workers' representatives also to suggest alternative revival schemes including by forming workers' cooperatives. It is upto the workers to respond appropriately.

Delay in Appointing the Presiding Officer of C.G.I.T. Jabalpur

3583. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases are pending before Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court (CGIT), Jabalpur;

(b) when did the last Presiding Officer retire;

(c) what action has been taken for appointing the Presiding Officer of CGIT;

(d) whether it is a fact that many petitions have been filed in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh against Government for the appointment of the Presiding Officer, CGIT, Jabalpur;

(e) if there is a delay in appointing the Presiding Officer, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether it is also a fact that Government gave assurance in Parliament as well as to the High Court that appointment of Presiding Officer will be made early; and

(g) if so, what action has been taken against the authorities for the lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) 1290 industrial disputes and 2237 applications were pending before CGIT-cum-Labour Court, Jabalpur as on 31st July, 1994.

(b) The tenure of the last Presiding Officer expired on 4th September, 1992.

(c) Action to fill up the post was initiated in July, 1992 by requesting several State Governments/High Courts to furnish a panel of eligible and willing judicial officers for appointment as Presiding Officer, but the same was made available to the Central Government only in February, 1994. Shri A.K. Awasthi has since been appointed as Presiding Officer w.e.f. 4th August, 1994.

(d) Only two petitions have been filed in the High Court of M.P. in this regard.

(e) The delay in appointing the

Presiding Officer was due to the delayed availability of panel of suitable officers from the concerned State Governments/ High Courts.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Abolition of Child Labour

3584. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps for the abolition of child labour;

(b) if so, the steps taken by various States in the matter;

(c) what is the present situation in different States and Union Territories; and

(d) the details of schemes of Government with regard to the identification and rehabilitation of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) Child labour is prohibited under various labour laws such as the Factories Act, 1948, Mines Act, 1952, Beedi and Cigar workers (Condition of Employment) Act, 1966. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits child labour in various occupations and processes as listed in its schedule. The working conditions of child labour are regulated under part III of this Act in areas where child labour is not prohibited under the Act. A vigorous enforcement of these legislations through an effective inspection machinery is expected to act as a deterrent to employing children, Government have launched a training programme for labour inspectors for more effective inspections under the International Programmes on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). 600 inspectors have been trained during the year 1993-94 under this scheme.

Since children continue to work owing to socio-economic reasons, various welfare schemes have been taken up. Under the National Child Labour Policy (NCLP), projects have been taken up in areas where child labour is concentrated. Under the Grant-in-Aid Schemes and International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), action-oriented projects for the benefit of children withdrawn from work have been taken up. More that 50,000 children are at present benefiting from the above schemes.

The present situation in different States/Union Territories is not precisely available as no such survey has been conducted. However, State Governments have been asked to formulate a plan for elimination of child labour.

IRDP, NRY, PMRY Schemes having Little Impact on Employment Scenari

3585. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the introduction of schemes like the Integrated Rural Development Programme, Nehru Rozgar Yojna and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana have had little impact on the country's employment scenario;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in spite of the implementation of several schemes, the average growth rate of employment has remained static for over two decades, the period ending in 1991, at 2.2 percent per annum;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any fresh steps to increase the average growth rate of employment in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHIR P.A. SANGMA): (a) Employment generation mainly takes place through investment in various sectors of economic activity both in the public and private sectors. The